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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/772,259 12/23/96 MASAKI

K 1185.1018/JD

EXAMINER

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WASHINGTON DC 20001

MM92/0526

NGUYEN, T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2872

23

DATE MAILED:
05/26/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
08/772,259

Applicant(s)
Masaki et al

Examiner
Thong Q. Nguyen

Group Art Unit
2872



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 9, 2000 and April 7, 2000

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire THREE month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Continued Prosecution Application

The request filed on 04/07/2000 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 08/772,259 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the feature concerning a display as recited in claim 1 (line 7) must be shown or the feature canceled from the claim. No new matter should be entered.

Note: *The objection to the drawings as set forth above was made in the previous Office action (Paper No. 17, page 2). In the response to the objection (see Paper No. 19, filed on 02/09/2000), applicant has amended claim 1 by deleting the feature concerning the display (see claim 1, lines 2-3); however, the feature concerning the display is still recited on line 7 of the claim.*

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a) Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph because each of the features “the display” (line 7) and “the surface” (line 11) lacks a proper antecedent basis.

b) Claim 4 is indefinite because the feature “the surface” (line 16) lacks a proper antecedent basis.

c) Claim 7 is indefinite because the feature “the surface” (line 12) lacks a proper antecedent basis.

d) The remaining claims are dependent upon the rejected base claims and thus inherit the deficiencies thereof.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-3 and 8, as best as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Yokoyama (EP reference No. 544 332).

See Yokoyama et al, pages 2, 4 and 5, and fig. 11.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

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Claims 4-7 and 9, as best as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art as described at pages 1-5 and illustrated in figures 11-12 in view of Ishikawa et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,600,455, of record) and Yokoyama et al (EP reference No. 544 332).

The optical device as provided by the prior art which is described in the present specification at pages 1-5 and illustrated in figs. 11-12 comprises 1) a light source apparatus having a lamp (7) and a reflector (8); 2) a light guide plate (2) having a light entrance surface, an inclined bottom surface decreasing away from the light entrance surface, an exit surface opposite and spaced from the inclined bottom surface; 3) a reflecting plate (4) disposed adjacent to the inclined bottom surface of the light guide plate; 4) a light control plate (5) having an emitting surface and an entrance surface which defines a prismatic surface which entrance surface faces the exit surface of the light guide plate. It is also noted that 1) the prismatic surface comprises a plurality of triangular-shaped projections which are extended in one common direction and repeatedly arranged in a direction perpendicular to the mentioned common direction; and 2) the emitting surface of the light control plate is spaced from the entrance surface of the light control plate as can be seen in figures 11-12 ; and 5) a diffusing plate (6) disposed on the top of the light control plate.

As a result of such a structure, the optical device of the prior art meets almost the structure of the device as claimed in the present application. However, the optical device of the prior art does not disclose that at least part of the slopes of the prismatic surface of the light

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control plate defines a diffusing surface for the purpose of generating diffused light passing through the light control plate towards the emitting surface of the light control plate as claimed.

The use of a light control plate having a surface which defines a diffusing surface is disclosed in the art as can be seen in the light control device disclosed by Ishikawa et al and Yokoyama et al. In particular, Ishikawa et al disclose a light control plate and teach the use of a light diffusing profile on a prismatic surface. The roughened pattern formed on one slope of each triangular-shaped projection as provided by Ishikawa et al will diffuse the light passing through the projection. See column 3 and figure 7. It is also noted that since the light from the light guide plate (2) must pass through the entrance surface having diffusing pattern of the light control element (5) and then exit the light control element (5) via the its emitting surface; therefore, the light from the entrance surface to the emitting surface of the light control element (5) is diffused light. Such use of a light control element with an inner diffusing pattern is clearly known to one skilled in the art as can be seen in the optical apparatus described by Yokoyama et al. See pages 2, 4 and 5 and figure 11, for example. Thus, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the optical device having a diffusing function as provided by the prior art by making the light diffusing profile on the prismatic surface of the light control plate (5) which has prismatic surface facing the exit side surface of the light guide plate (2) on the device of the prior art as suggested by Ishikawa et al and Yokoyama et al for the purpose of controlling a diffusing light beam and simultaneously reducing the light effects of the

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reflecting sheet while also obtaining the advantage of reduction of the components used in the optical device

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

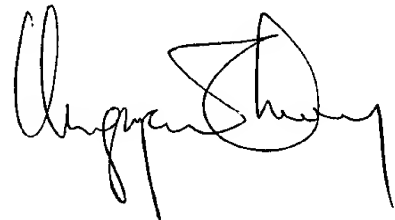
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Exam. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-4814. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7722 (or 7724).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Nguyen

05/24/00

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thong Nguyen', with a large, stylized circular flourish at the end.

**Thong Nguyen
Primary Examiner**